



# ADJC TODAY

*The mission of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections is to enhance public protection by changing the delinquent thinking and behaviors of juvenile offenders committed to the Department.*

**JANET NAPOLITANO, GOVERNOR**

**DAVID A. GASPAR, DIRECTOR**

**February 2003**

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### *ADJC Weighs Innovative Concepts To Help Solve State's Budget Crisis*



The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) is developing a number of innovative concepts in response to a request by Governor Janet Napolitano to reduce the cost of providing services to incarcerated youth. Our goal is to reduce costs without sacrificing quality or safety.

The concepts that are under consideration by the Leadership Team involve a number of different proposals. Some would reduce the number of youth committed to ADJC on misdemeanor charges, while others involve changes that might allow the Department to attract federal funding, or would use ADJC's surplus beds for innovative purposes.

Sometimes a crisis forces us to become more creative and innovative to find new solutions. Governor Napolitano has challenged us to help find solutions that not only save the state money, but will also improve programs for the youth and families we serve.

While the ideas are still under development and discussion, the concepts promise to yield significant savings for the state.

My goal is to be innovative. My hope is that these ideas will not only help the Department, but the entire juvenile justice system to become better, more efficient, and more effective.

These are some of the many ways ADJC is doing its part to contribute ideas and resources to assist in solving the state's budget crisis. In the meantime, we must continue our daily focus on enhancing public protection by changing the delinquent thinking and behaviors of juvenile offenders committed to the Department. É

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***ADJC: Serving Taxpayers Through Accountability,  
Responsibility, and Quality***

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) acknowledges that its primary responsibility is to serve Arizona taxpayers. It meets this goal by providing effective programming for juvenile offenders committed to a secure facility by Arizona's county juvenile courts, thus enhancing the safety of every Arizona neighborhood.

**Accountability:** ADJC is committed to organizational accountability through a structured planning process that promotes objective data as a measure of specific performance and the basis for improvement. These efforts include a strategic planning system that establishes benchmarks for every aspect of the Department; Performance-based Standards (PbS), which allow the Department to compare its data with juvenile programs and facilities all around the nation; and, an ongoing measurement of recidivism to determine how many youth are demonstrating a change in behavior.

**Responsibility:** ADJC has a clear commitment to youth under its jurisdiction and the families of those juveniles. This commitment is demonstrated by programs designed to direct, redirect, coach, and mentor each youth. These programs are designed to change delinquent thinking and behaviors that contribute to involvement in substance abuse, gangs, academic underachievement, and family crisis that cause youth to commit delinquent acts.

**Quality:** By measuring recidivism, ADJC is able to demonstrate that a solid majority of youth who go through its programs demonstrate a change in delinquent behavior. These results are especially noteworthy because the population being served by the Department is so challenging. More than 84 percent of the youth sent to ADJC in 2000 had six or more juvenile court referrals and 68.2 percent had four or more referrals.

For that reason, it is even more impressive that on average, 63 percent of these youth do not return to either an adult or juvenile prison after two years and 57 percent have not been re-incarcerated after three years. While state-to-state comparisons are difficult to make because of differences in definitions, data-collection, and other factors, these rates are better than the reported recidivism rates for most states. É

***ADJC serves the citizens of Arizona by building safer communities through successful youth.***

***Restitution Payments More Than Doubled In The Past Three Years***

Restitution payments made by youth under the supervision of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) have more than doubled over the past three years, according to data compiled by the Victims' Rights Office. In 2002, restitution payments forwarded to the county juvenile courts totaled \$27,976. By 2002, those payments had risen to \$64,565, an increase of 231 percent.

While this level of progress is remarkable, it is only one of the many ways the Department illustrates its commitment to Restorative Justice. The Victims' Rights staff is working on additional refinements as restitution is an important part of the Department's Restorative Justice efforts. É

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## ***ADJC Youth Earn Absolute Discharge Through Successful Behavior***

The following are two recent success stories from the hundreds of youth who have completed programming in the secure facilities and received absolute discharge this year. These youth are demonstrating to their families and communities that their delinquent behavior was a thing of the past.

**Cathy**, 17, was released from Black Canyon School (BCS) in May after completing the Recovery substance-abuse program. She spent nearly 17 months in BCS, where she was committed after 14 separate juvenile court referrals.

Since her release, Cathy and her mom have completed a Functional Family Therapy program, and while both had extensive histories of substance abuse, mother and daughter have remained clean and sober. Cathy has worked hard to avoid any contact with old friends who continue to be involved in delinquent activity. She has obtained a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and plans to enroll in college in the near future.

"I have found Cathy to be intelligent and strong-willed. She has a rare orientation toward her future success," her parole officer wrote. "Cathy has accomplished all of the assigned areas on her supervision plan." On January 9th, Cathy received an absolute discharge from the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) supervision.

An absolute discharge marks the ultimate success for juveniles who has been committed to the Department. It means they have earned their way out of the institution and back into their home communities. Once there, they have demonstrated over time that they can apply their newly acquired skills and attitudes toward their intended goal: responsible law-abiding citizenship.

**Monique**, 17, was released from BCS in May after completing a 16-month length of stay involving unlawful use of a means of transportation.

Since her release, Monique has enrolled in a high school program. She and her guardians are attending a Functional Family Therapy program and she has completed her required hours of community service.

While the youth is under the auspices of Child Protective Services, she is showing excellent progress in her behavior, attitude, and education. She has avoided contact with peers with whom she engaged in criminal activity in the past. She has not had any involvement with the police since her release. In January, she received an absolute discharge.

These stories represent the ongoing success that is being obtained every day by ADJC youth. They have changed their behavior because of the hard work by staff in secure facilities and in community corrections. If you know of a youth whose success should be shared with everyone, please provide the information to the ADJC Communications Division. É

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## ***ADJC Encourages Enhanced Supervision For Juveniles Across State Lines***

Since 1955, the Interstate Compact for Juveniles has provided the sole statutory authority for regulating the transfer of juvenile probation and parole supervision across state boundaries. All fifty states are signatories.

***ADJC has requested the Arizona Legislature to consider adopting the new compact language this legislative session.***

It has been more than 20 years since the Compact has been revised. There is a national effort underway for each signatory state to adopt the revised compact language that addresses the current reality of juvenile justice today.

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) has requested the Arizona State Legislature to consider adopting the new compact language this legislative session.

Representative Steve Tully, R-Phoenix and the House Judiciary Chairman, filed a bill which contains the updated Interstate Compact for Juveniles language. The bill number is HB 2106. É

## ***ADJC Staff Demonstrate Their Generosity***

Once again, the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections' (ADJC) staff has given generously to the State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC) through the 2002 SECC campaign. Your efforts will help those less fortunate during this year. The donations are appreciated by more than 500 charitable organizations that are the recipients of the SECC funds.

Director Gaspar thanks every employee who contributed to this worthy cause - whether through payroll deduction, a one time gift, or participation in an SECC special event. Each and every donation makes a difference. It is the accumulation of all gifts that make the campaign so successful. Thank you for this outpouring of generosity. É

## ***MIS Update***

*by Susan Lucero, Information Technology Specialist, Management Information Systems*

In an effort to better assist the staff and juveniles of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), the Management Information Systems (MIS) Division is constantly upgrading its services.

- MIS is working with ADJC Staff Development to create training classes covering computer use. They will be held at the Computer Training Room located at 1616 W. Adams and can be scheduled for training as needed. The class capacity is up to 11 users.

- There is a new and improved Separation Program in Windows YouthBase. Effective February 1, the Separation Program has been moved from the DOS version of YouthBase to Windows YouthBase. É

*ADJC Today is the employee newsletter of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. Unless noted otherwise, articles are written by Communications Division staff. For comments or input, please contact the Communications Office at (602) 542-4497. This document is available in an alternative format upon request.*